

Dr. La Shawn Denise Witt was born January 3, 1977. A native of Los Angeles, California, Dr. Witt worked in the field of education for over 18 years as an Assistant Principal, Principal, Middle School Teacher and Teacher on Special Assignment. Dedicated to her personal educational advancement, she has earned two Bachelor degrees from Loyola Marymount University in Biology and African American studies, a Masters degree in Education including her secondary teaching credential from Pepperdine University, administrative credential with special education leadership certification in the Masters of Education ISLA program from Loyola Marymount University, as well as a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy University. In addition, she has completed graduate level courses in the Masters of Human Services and Personnel Counseling program at Mount Saint Mary's College.

In 2017, she decided to step out on faith and live her dream of inspiring others and follow the steps that God called her to walk in. She coined her journey as, "The year of 40" and began strategizing to make her dream a reality.

A multi-entrepreneur, Dr. Witt owns *Divine Diva Events* (DDE), a wedding and special event business based out of Beverly Hills, CA with satellite locations throughout the country. It has always been her dream to provide clients around the country quality, trustworthy event planning at an affordable rate. She has worked in the event industry for 22 years and has established a respectable rapport with many of her clients, successfully producing over 450 events. She maintains working relationships with many of Los Angeles' top event industry professionals. Dr. Witt sees each event as a unique opportunity to design the experience of a lifetime and gives each client an elegantly personalized affair. She is also the proud owner of *Fabulous Divas*, a first-class travel management group that specialized in hosting group travel events around the world for predominantly African-American women and couples.

During the holiday season, Dr. Witt provides special-made dishes to clients across the country under the auspices of *Divas Fabulous Fixins'*. She enjoys sharing stories about her childhood in the kitchen with her grandmother, mother and aunt. She takes joy in preparing these dishes, knowing that families are blessed with traditions that she once shared with her family.

Over the course of her life, Dr. Witt has faced and overcome many obstacles that have shaped her into who she is today. In the summer of 2021, she will finally release her first book appropriately entitled, "*The Diva Herself*". In her book, she will discuss how being a silent rape survivor at age 15 contributed to abusive and failed relationships, poor handling of finances, long bouts of depression, struggling with validation and acceptance, and multiple attempts of suicide. She will share how her journey to "The year of 40" opened the door to walk into a more fulfilled purpose and produced her first Women's Spiritual Retreat under *My Sister's Keeper*. This retreat convened in May 2018 and celebrated diversity, spiritual experience, and healing of women from all walks of life. This event has led to many speaking engagements for women-based events around the country and continues today.

Dr. Witt has recently launched an initiative through My Sister's Keeper to fund transitional recovery homes in the city of Los Angeles. Her mission is to end homelessness for women, families and communities and assist with providing them with second chance opportunities in life and to restore self-sufficiency and dignity.

Rounding out her entrepreneurial talents, Dr. Witt recently launched an Educational Consulting business. This business will target school districts and provide strategic planning and professional development to schools experiencing teacher shortages, teacher retention matters, and assist in the execution of administrative retreats for executive leadership teams.

She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority- Inglewood Alumnae Chapter where she holds various positions both locally and regionally. She aspires to be elected as a National Leader. Dr. Witt is also an Associate member of Jack and Jill of America, Tabahani Book Circle, Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc., National Association of University Women and The Links, Incorporated.

She is also active in the African American Alumni Association at Loyola Marymount University (LMU). She has served on the AAAA Ambassadors for the last 10 years. This involvement includes serving on the planning committees for various engagement events for alumni as well as financially supporting the goals of AAAA to provide scholarship for current students. In 2019, she was elected to serve on the board for the African American Alumni Association. In addition, she serves as Primary Advisor to the Tau Delta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc chartered at LMU.

Dr. Witt was recently appointed to serve as board chair of The Impact Experience.

Outside of her professional commitments, she indulges in her passions of traveling, reading, shopping, buying shoes, attending live concerts and participating in community service.

Dr. Witt currently resides in Inglewood California where she enjoys spending time with the loves of her life, her adult daughter Morgan, a recent graduate of Howard University and her two Shih Tzu's Dolce & Gabbana.

One of her mantra's acclaims "God is within her she will not fail."